

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of mercury affixed to a sorbent, the method comprising:  
  
providing an amount of sorbent, at least a portion of the amount of sorbent comprising particulates having mercury compounds affixed to the particulates;  
  
depositing the amount of sorbent on a ~~conveyor~~ floor of a fluidized bed conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and  
  
passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is passed through the openings until the sorbent reaches a temperature of at least 700°F and mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulates.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
measuring an in process temperature of the sorbent when the sorbent is exposed to the heated flowing air;  
  
removing at least a portion of the sorbent being exposed to the heated flowing air when the measured in process temperature reaches at least 700°F;  
  
thereafter providing a second amount of sorbent, at least a portion of the second amount of sorbent comprising particulates having mercury affixed to the particulates;  
  
and

thereafter maintaining the sorbent in the heated flowing air until the sorbent reaches a temperature of at least 700°F.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the openings are 10 microns or less.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the flowing air is passed through the openings at greater than 0 to about 10 cubic feet per minute.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sorbent is activated carbon.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein:  
the amount of activated carbon is maintained in the heated flowing air until the activated carbon reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
reusing the sorbent in a mercury reduction process after mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulates.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
preheating the amount of sorbent to a temperature of at least 300°F before  
exposing the amount of sorbent to the flowing air.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of mercury  
adsorbed to activated carbon, the method comprising:  
providing an amount of activated carbon, at least a portion of the activated  
carbon having adsorbed mercury compounds;  
depositing the amount of activated carbon on a ~~conveyor~~ floor of a fluidized bed  
conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and  
passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent  
from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is  
passed through the openings until the activated carbon reaches a temperature of at  
least 700°F.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein:  
the openings are 10 microns or less.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein:  
the flowing air is passed through the openings at greater than 0 to about 10 cubic feet per minute.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein:  
the amount of activated carbon is maintained in the heated flowing air until the activated carbon reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
reusing the activated carbon in a mercury reduction process after mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the activated carbon.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
preheating the amount of activated carbon to a temperature of at least 300°F before exposing the amount of activated carbon to the flowing air.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of mercury in an amount of particulate matter including fly ash and activated carbon, the method comprising:  
providing an amount of particulate matter including fly ash and activated carbon, at least a portion of the fly ash or activated carbon having adsorbed mercury compounds;

depositing the amount of particulate matter on a ~~conveyor~~ floor of a fluidized bed conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and

passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is passed through the openings until the particulate matter reaches a temperature of at least 700°F and mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulate matter.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:

the particulate matter is exposed to heated flowing air until the particulate matter reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.